

Firm facing waste claim

A SKIP-HIRE company is being taken to court accused of running an illegal waste disposal site.

Springfield Skip Hire, of Hemmells, Basildon, faces prosecution along with its boss Darren Lee, 31. The charges relate to an allegedly unlicensed waste site at Moorlands Industrial estate, Rettendon.

Lee, of East Ham, East London, is due to appear at Harlow Magistrates' Court on February 8.

Beauty night aids hospice

A PAMPER evening will raise money for St Luke's Hospice, Basildon.

The event takes place at All of You Holistic Therapy Centre, High Street, Wickford, from 6pm to 10pm on Friday.

Treatments available will include Indian head massage, reflexology, seated acupressure, mini-facials and head and neck massage. Proceeds from the £1 entry go to St Luke's. For more info, call 01268 767208 or e-mail centre@allofyou.co.uk

POLICE ON THE SPOT!

COMMUNITY-SPIRITED students grilled councillors, police and the mayor. Pupils from Shoeburyness High and nearby primaries took part in the fourth annual Debate Shoeburyness. Pupils held workshops to prepare discussion issues, including the environment, parks, safety and transport. A spokeswoman said: "We are proud that our young people continue to make a difference in their community."



■ Question time – pupils at Shoeburyness High

Picture: STEVE O'CONNELL BA40020_005

Now eviction row travellers look to new sites in Essex

TRAVELLERS facing eviction from Dale Farm are now looking at sites across Essex.

The 96 families at Crays Hill have been given until March 1 to come up with options to avoid the £13million eviction. Some may be allowed to stay in Basildon, if the majority move elsewhere.

Travellers are looking at up to four sites, particularly in Harlow and Epping. Dale Farm campaign-

By JON AUSTIN

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er Grattan Puxon said travellers could then apply to a £60million Homes and Communities Agency fund to build caravan sites.

The possible locations emerged at the first face-to-face meeting between Basildon Council officials, travellers and Crays Hill residents. The Westminster talks were arranged by Basildon and

Billericay MP John Baron. More talks are expected.

Crays Hill resident Mike Bailey, 46 said he hoped the travellers leave peacefully.

He said: "I felt there was a very clear message throughout the meeting, that the enforcement timetable is firmly fixed.

"Mr Baron encouraged the travellers to make a peaceful withdrawal to sites outside the bor-

ough before the expiry of that timetable, as that would benefit all concerned."

Traveller Candy Sheridan, a Norfolk councillor, will work with the agency and Essex County Council on feasible land. Mr Baron will also ask the government for any available sites.

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